

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

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R 201155Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4844

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 1302

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC US

SUBJECT: AGUSTSSON SPEAKS OUT AGAIN ON DEFENSE MATTERS

REF: REYKJAVIK 1284

1. AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED SEP 19 IN COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN, FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AGUSTSSON AGAIN STRESSED THAT PROGRESSIVE PARTY ATTITUDE TOWARD DEFENSE MATTERS IS UNCHANGED BY PARTNERSHIP WITH INDEPENDENCE PARTY. NEVERTHELESS, FONMIN SAID, HE RECOGNIZES REALITIES OF CURRENT SITUATION AND ACCEPTS PROVISIONS OF GOVT'S DEFENSE PLATFORM. INTERVIEW COVERED VARIETY OF TOPICS, BUT CENTERED ON ICELAND'S DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND NATO. EMBASSY'S UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

2. Q. IN VARIOUS ARTICLES IN THE WESTERN PRESS, THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT TO DISGUISE THE JOY WHICH PREVAILS OVER THE FORMATION OF THE CURRENT ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT. MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, HAS ICELAND HIRED ITSELF OUT TO NATO AGAIN?

3. A. I DON'T WANT TO SAY THAT WE HAVE HIRED OURSELVES OUT. WE ARE CONTINUING IN NATO AS WE HAVE FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THAT. IT WAS THE POLICY OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT THAT WE SHOULD REMAIN IN NATO UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND IT IS THE POLICY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT THAT WE REMAIN IN NATO.

4. Q. IT SAYS IN THE PLATFORM OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT THAT THERE WILL BE SPECIAL COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS HAVE CONSTRUED THIS TO MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE EVEN CLOSER MILITARY COOPERATION THAN BEFORE. IS THIS RIGHT, AND HOW IS THIS CLOSER COOPERATION TO BE EXPLAINED?

5. A. THAT IS NOT AT ALL CORRECT. IT WAS CLEAR TO THE FORMER GOVERNMENT THAT THE (EXISTING) DEFENSE AGREEMENT WAS MADE WITH THE U.S. ON BEHALF OF NATO, AND THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS TO BE MADE WITH THE AMERICANS WILL REPRESENT NO CHANGE; I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN THE DEFENSE FORCE -- QUITE THE CONTRARY.

6. Q. IS THERE NO INTENTION OF MAKING ANY CHANGES IN THE AGREEMENT THAT NOW EXISTS BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UNITED STATES?

7. A. IT IS THE INTENTION TO MAKE CHANGES WHICH WILL BE TO THE BENEFIT OF ICELAND. IT SAYS IN THE GOVERNMENT PLATFORM THAT THERE SHALL BE A SEPARATION BETWEEN MILITARY AND OTHER FUNCTIONS AT KEFLAVIK. IT SAYS, MOREOVER, THAT THE MILITARY SHALL BE QUARTERED WITHIN THE BASE AREA. I CONSIDER BOTH OF THESE TO BE IMPROVEMENTS. IN ADDITION, I AM GOING TO REVERT BACK TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSIONS OF NOVEMBER 1973 AND DISCUSS WITH THE AMERICANS REDUCTIONS IN THE DEFENSE FORCE.

8. Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THE FEAR OF MANY IDF OPPONENTS THAT THERE IS IN THE MAKING A NEW COMMITMENT TO THE AMERICANS--WHICH IS REFERRED TO IN VARIOUS COMMENTS OF IP LEADERS WHO SEEM TO FOSTER THIS FEAR -- IS NOT VALID.

9. A. IT IS NOT VALID. AND I WILL NOT WORK FOR IT OR HAVE ANY PART OF IT.

10. Q. CAN WE HOPE TO SEE FURTHER CHANGES IN THE OPERATION OF THE KEFLAVIK TV STATION BEYOND THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE?

11. A. IT WAS NEVER EXPECTED THAT THE TV WOULD BE DENIED TO THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES. BUT I FIRMLY EXPECT, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROMISE WHICH WAS MADE IN WASHINGTON, THAT THE TELEVISION WILL BE LIMITED TO THE BASE, AND I WANT THIS TO BE PURSUED AND WILL DO MY UTMOST TO SEE THAT IT IS. I BELIEVE THAT AS OF NOT THE TV SIGNAL CANNOT BE SEEN IN REYKJAVIK, AND NATURALLY I AM PLEASED ABOUT THIS.

12. Q. IS IT ANTICIPATED THAT FINANCIAL COMPENSATION WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THE AMERICANS AS SORT OF A CONFRIRMATION OF THE CHANGES POLICY IN DEFENSE MATTERS?

13. A. I DISCLAIM ANY INTENTION OF SELLING OUR COUNTRY, NOW ANY MORE THAN BEFORE. AND I AM NOT AWARE THAT WE ARE SEEKING ANY SPECIAL FINANCIAL COMPENSATION.

14. Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT WITH THE COMING TO POWER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGED POLICY IN DEFENSE MATTERS?

15. A. YES. I OBVIOUSLY CAN'T DENY THAT THE RESULT OF THE LAST ELECTION SHOWED THAT OUR PROPOSALS, WHICH WE ADVANCED IN WASHINGTON LAST APRIL AND WHICH WE HAD AGREED UPON IN THE CABINET LAST MARCH, DO NOT HAVE PARLIA-
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MENTARY BACKING; THEREFORE, THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN DEFENSE POLICY, I CAN'T DENY THAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, I CAN ASSERT THAT THE POLICY OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY IN THIS MATTER IS UNCHANGED. BUT WE FEEL THAT SINCE THE IP CANNOT AGREE TO CHANGES IN DEFENSE POLICY BEYOND THOSE IN THE GOVERNMENT PLATFORM, THEN WE MUST ACCEPT THE FACT, FOR THE TIME BEING, THAT OUR POLICY WON'T BE IMPLEMENTED.

16. Q. IN OTHER WORDS YOU CONSIDER THAT THE PARTY IS BOUND BY THE AGREEMENT MADE MARCH 21?

17. A. YES, IT IS PARTY POLICY AND WE TRY TO IMPLEMENT IT WHEN CONDITIONS WARRANT IT.

18.Q. BUT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS NOT BOUND BY THIS
AGREEMENT?

19. A. NO

20. Q. IT IS THE ANNOUNCED POLICY OF THE PP THAT
MILITARY FORCES ARE NOT TO BE STATIONED IN THIS COUNTRY
IN TIMES OF PEACE. IN ORDER THAT SUCH A DECLARATION
HAS SOME MEANING, THEN IT NEEDS TO BE EXPLAINED FURTHER.
HOW DO YOU DEFINE "TIMES OF PEACE?"

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 H-03 OMB-01 EB-11 CIEP-03 DRC-01

/137 W

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R 201158Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4845
INFO COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 1302

EO 11652: NA
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REF: REYKJAVIK 1284

21. A. I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DEFINE THIS IN DETAIL. I DO WANT TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IT HAS BEEN MY VIEW THAT TIMES OF PEACE EXIST AT PRESENT IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD. THEREFORE, I SUPPORTED THOSE PROPOSALS, TOGETHER WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT, WHICH CALLED FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE ARMED FORCES DURING A SPECIFIC PERIOD. AND I WANT TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID BEFORE THAT THIS IS OUR POLICY WHICH IS KNOWN TO THE IP AND I HAVE EXPLAINED IT TO THE PRIME MINISTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ELECTION RESULTS UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOWED THAT THOSE PARTIES SUPPORTING THESE PROPOSALS DID NOT OBTAIN A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN ORDER THAT THESE SUGGESTIONS MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED. THEREFORE WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO TAKE A DETOUR. IT WAS OUR EVALUATION-- OTHERS CAN HAVE THEIR OWN EVALUATION THIS--THAT THERE WAS NOT A BASIS FOR A LEFTIST GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE SDP, THEREFORE WE DECIDED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WITH THE IP IN ORDER TO SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND WE SACRIFICED FOR THE TIME BEING OUR POLICY ON THE MILITARY BASE ISSUE.

2. Q. DO I UNDERSTAND IT CORRECTLY WHEN YOU SAY THAT YOU HAVE SACRIFICED YOUR POLICY ON THE MILITARY BASE ISSUE, THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU WILL BE TAKING ON FURTHER MILITARY COMMITMENTS THAN ALREADY IS THE CASE?

23. A. NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL--I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THIS.

24. Q. NOW THERE IS MUCH TALK ABOUT SO-CALLED WORLD PEACE AND HOW IT IS ENDANGERED BY VARIOUS PARTIES IN THE WORLD. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT WORLD PEACE IS MORE ENDANGERED BY INJUSTICE, POVERTY, OPPRESSION, AND MAL-DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH OR BY THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET SUBMARINES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC?

25. A. I AM OF THE OPINION THAT WORLD PEACE IS GREATLY ENDANGERED BY THE INEQUALITY WHICH YOU MENTIONED. IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN MY POLICY AS FOREIGN MINISTER TO SUPPORT THESE NATIONS TO THE UTMOST, AND WE HAVE TRIED TO CONDUCT OURSELVES IN FOREIGN POLICY IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THESE NATIONS ENJOY COMPLETE JUSTICE.

26. Q. OF LATE THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED REVELATIONS ABOUT THE UNDERCOVER WORK OF THE AMERICAN CIA AND ITS EFFORTS TO TOPPLE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS OR TO TRY TO INFLUENCE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS. THIS DOES NOT SUGGEST VERY PEACEFUL INTENTIONS ON THE

PART OF THE U.S. IS NOT U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY, IN
LIGHT OF THESE REVELATIONS, MORE DANGEROUS AS FAR AS
WORLD PEACE IS CONCERNED THAN SOVIET POLICY?
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27. A. I DO NOT WANT TO JUDGE THEM IN THIS CONNECTION,
BUT I AM OF THE OPINION THAT WORLD PEACE IS NOT ENDANGERED
BY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS MY
VIEW, WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE, THAT I CONSIDER
WORLD PEACE BEST PRESERVED WITHOUT MILITARY ALLIANCES.

28. Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT WORLD PEACE IS ENDANGERED
BY SOVIET POLICY?

29. A. NO, I CANNOT SAY THAT IS MY OPINION. I HAVE
NO PROOF THAT THE SOVIET UNION INTENDS TO EXERT MILITARY
FORCE. I HAVE NO SUCH PROOF.

30. Q. RECENTLY THE GREEKS HAVE CUT THEIR MILITARY
TIES WITH NATO, BUT THEY SAY THEY STILL WANT
TO RETAIN POLITICAL TIES FOR THE TIME BEING. WHAT IS
CONTAINED IN THE TERM POLITICAL TIES?

31. A. VARIOUS COOPERATION EXISTS AMONG NATO MEMBERS
WHICH IS NOT MILITARY IN NATURE, AND I WOULD THINK
THAT THE GREEKS WANT TO CONTINUE THIS COOPERATION IN THE
SAME WAY AS THE FRENCH HAVE DONE.

32. Q. ARE WE A PARTY TO THIS POLITICAL COOPERATION?

33. A. YES.

34. Q. THE GREEKS REASONED THAT A MILITARY ALLIANCE
THAT COULD NOT DEFEND ONE MEMBER NATION AGAINST AN ATTACK
BY ANOTHER MEMBER NATION WOULD BE EVEN LESS ABLE TO
DEFEND IT AGAINST AN OUTSIDE ATTACK. DOES THIS NOT ALSO
APPLY TO ICELAND?

35. A. WELL, WE OF COURSE HAVE OUR EXPERIENCE FROM THE
COLD WAR. NATO WAS THEN VERY FEEBLE, I MUST CONFESS. IT
BECAME EVIDENT THAT NATO DID NOT VENTURE TO APPLY PRESSURE
ON ANY ONE STATE, ALTHOUGH FOR A TIME IT DID APPLY PRESSURE
AGAINST US. AND I MUST SAY IT AS IT IS THAT WE DID NOT
RECEIVE NATO SUPPORT TO THE EXTENT THAT WE HAD ANTICIPATED.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS KNOWN TO ME THAT THE SECRETARY
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GENERAL DID HIS UTMOST TO TRY TO GET THE BRITISH TO NEGOTIATE. WHETHER OR TO WHAT EXTENT HE WAS INVOLVED IN AGREEMENTS THAT WERE CONCLUDED WITH THE BRITISH I CANNOT SAY. I DO NOT KNOW.

36. Q. MANY ARE OF THE OPINION THAT MILITARY ALLIANCES ARE TOOLS OF THE TWO SUPER POWERS TO BE USED TO DOMINATE THE WORLD, AND THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN MAINTAINING TENSION IS GREAT. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON THIS?

37. A. WELL, AS I SAID BEFORE, IT IS MY VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF SUCH CONDITIONS COULD BE CREATED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THESE MILITARY ALLIANCES. HOWEVER, BOTH THE FORMER AND THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAVE HAD THE POLICY THAT NATO IS NOT TO BE DISBANDED WHILE THE WARSAW PACT RETAINS ITS FULL STRENGTH.

38. Q. IN CLOSING: THERE HAS BEEN A POLICY CHANGE IN THE BASE ISSUE, WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL CHANGES FROM OUTSIDE INFLUENCES. YOU HAVE BEEN FOREIGN MINISTER DURING BOTH OF THESE PERIODS. IS IT NOT SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT FOR YOU AS A POLITICIAN TO BE INVOLVED IN SUCH RAPID CHANGES DURING SUCH A SHORT PERIOD?

39. A. YES, I HAVE GIVEN THIS MUCH THOUGHT AND, OF COURSE, I CONSIDERED IT PRIOR TO ACCEPTING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THE GOVERNMENT NOW IN POWER. FOR MY PART I AM OF THE OPINION THAT PEOPLE MUST FACE FACTS. NOW THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY FOR GIVING NOTICE TO THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND REMOVING THE FORCES DURING A SPECIFIED TIME. THEREFORE I FIND IT JUSTIFIABLE ON MY PART TO BECOME INVOLVED AND TRY TO DO WHAT I CAN IN THIS MATTER DURING THE PRESENT COALITION AND THAT IS WHAT I WILL TRY TO DO..

40. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE CAN UNDOUBTEDLY EXPECT MORE OF THE SAME. THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW GOVT'S DEFENSE PLATFORM ARE STILL CONTROLLING, AS THE MINISTER STATES.
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